

## REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Final Action dated 9 December 2005 (the "Final Action"), for which a three-month shortened statutory period for response is set for 9 March 2006. This communication is filed with a request for continued examination (RCE) in this matter. The Applicant requests favorable action on the subject application at the earliest convenience of the Office.

### Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 Citing Arbel and Pershan

As stated in Paragraph 3 on page 2 of the Final Action, pending claims 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,276,731 to Arbel, et al. ("Arbel"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,718,026 to Pershan, et al. ("Pershan"). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Turning to **independent claim 28**, solely to advance the prosecution of this application, and without conceding the propriety of the stated rejections, the Applicant has amended claim 28 to clarify additional features of the selective call forwarding system. For convenience, the Applicant reproduces a portion of claim 28, with the above revisions shown in redline:

"a telephone system configured to receive at least one call made from one of a plurality of caller telephone numbers to a subscriber telephone number, and to selectively forward the call to a one of a plurality of forwarding telephone numbers, wherein different ones of the forwarding telephone numbers are associated with respective caller telephone numbers and are also associated with the subscriber telephone number, and

wherein the telephone system is for providing an indication, to a caller placing the call, that the call is being forwarded to the forwarding telephone number; and”

The above revisions are believed fully supported under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, at least by the Applicant’s description in Paragraph [0051].

Turning to the cited art, Arbel pertains generally to a method and apparatus for handling incoming telephone calls. Without conceding that Arbel provides the teaching for which it is cited in the Final Action, the Applicant submits that Arbel neither teaches nor suggests a “telephone system ... for providing an indication, to a caller placing the call, that the call is being forwarded to the forwarding telephone number”, as recited in claim 28.

Turning to Pershan, it pertains generally to call forwarding methods and apparatus. In addition to providing the above comments regarding Arbel, the Applicant agrees with the assessment on page 3 of the Final Action that Arbel does not teach that the programmable telephone number table can be edited by a user of the system via a website. Thus, the Final Action cited Pershan for this teaching.

Without conceding that Pershan provides the teaching for which it is cited in the Final Action, the Applicant submits that Pershan neither teaches nor suggests a “telephone system ... for providing an indication, to a caller placing the call, that the call is being forwarded to the forwarding telephone number”, as recited in claim 28. Therefore, Pershan fails to provide the teaching missing from Arbel that is necessary to support a § 103 rejection of claim 28.

Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicant submits that Arbel and Pershan, whether considered severally or in combination do not support a § 103 rejection of claim 28. The Applicant thus requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection of claim 28.

**Claims 29 and 30** depend from claim 28, and stand rejected on similar grounds. Therefore, the above comments directed to claim 28 apply equally to claims 29 and 30.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 Citing Arbel**

As stated in Paragraph 4 on page 4 of the Final Action, pending claims 31 and 33-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Arbel. The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Turning to **independent claim 31**, solely to advance the prosecution of this application, and without conceding the propriety of the stated rejections, the Applicant has amended claim 31 to clarify additional features of the method. For convenience, the Applicant reproduces a portion of claim 31, with the above revisions shown in redline:

“receiving a first call made to a subscriber telephone number from a first caller telephone number;

determining whether the first caller telephone number is one of a plurality of caller telephone numbers associated with the subscriber telephone number;

forwarding the first call to a first forwarding telephone number associated with the first caller telephone number;

providing an indication, to the first caller, that the first call is being forwarded to the first forwarding telephone number;

receiving at least a second call made to the subscriber telephone number from at least a second caller telephone number;

determining whether the second caller telephone number is one of the plurality of caller telephone numbers associated with the subscriber telephone number; ~~and~~

forwarding the second call to a second forwarding telephone number associated with the second caller telephone number; and

providing an indication, to the second caller, that the second call is being forwarded to the second forwarding telephone number.”

The above revisions are believed fully supported under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, at least by the Applicant’s description in Paragraph [0051].

Turning to the cited art, Arbel pertains generally to a method and apparatus for handling incoming telephone calls. Without conceding that Arbel provides the teaching for which it is cited in the Final Action, the Applicant submits that Arbel does not disclose a “providing an indication, to the first caller, that the first call is being forwarded to the first forwarding telephone number”, and “providing an indication, to the second caller, that the second call is being forwarded to the second forwarding telephone number”, as recited in claim 31.

Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicant submits that Arbel does not support a § 102 rejection of claim 31. The Applicant thus requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection of claim 31.

**Claims 33-35** depend from claim 31, and stand rejected on similar grounds. Therefore, the above comments directed to claim 31 apply equally to claims 33-35.

**Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 Citing Arbel and O’Neil**

As stated in Paragraph 5 on page 6 of the Final Action, pending claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arbel, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,963,864 to O’Neil, et al. (“O’Neil”). The Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

**Claim 32** depends from independent claim 31, which was discussed in detail above. Therefore, all of the above comments directed to claim 31 apply equally to claim 32.

### **New Claims**

The Applicant has also added new system claims 36-38 and new method claims 39-44. These new claims are believed fully supported under § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, at least by Paragraph [0051] of the Applicant's specification.

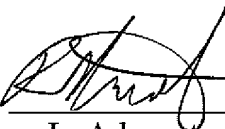
New system claims 36-38 depend from claim 28, while method claims 39-44 depend from claim 31. The Applicant submits that these new claims recite further features that are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited art discussed above.

### **Conclusion**

The Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 28-35, and also requests favorable action on new claims 34-44. If any issue remains unresolved that would prevent favorable action on this case, **the Office is requested to contact the undersigned to resolve the issue.**

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9 MAR 06

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